

From: Leon Garden [mailto:usgardens@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2006 12:03 AM
To: MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov
Cc: Kaitilin Gaffney; Jesus Ruiz; Marc Shargel; John Wolfe
Subject: MLPAComments: Support MLPA Proposal #2

I am a recreational SCUBA diver who enjoys underwater photography and I occasionally spear a fish for dinner. In the 50 years I have been diving in California waters I have most certainly seen a remarkable decline in the near shore fish populations. There is rarely a rockfish over one pound in the vicinity of the Monterey peninsula to spear.

I am aware how hard the Stakeholders worked over these past months to reach a compromise with fishermen, conservationists, scientists and commercial interests to reach the compromises that are represented in the Map #2 proposal. The ocean needs some more protective conservation of resources if past populations of fish and formerly pristine habitats are to have a chance to recover. The Hopkins reserve needs to be expanded from the breakwater to Lovers Point to increase the chance of fish populations reproducing and growing to the point they might repopulate the entire south coast of the Monterey Bay. Similarly the Point Lobos Reserve needs to be expanded to adequately protect the unique habitats that surround the existing reserve.

Please, I urge your approval and support for the Map #2 Proposal as the best choice.

Leon Garden
Monterey, CA